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Solar Project Update:

Authority Awarded Over **\$700,000** in Grant Funds for Two Solar Projects

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (Authority), developed two exciting solar projects for its Members. These projects were submitted to the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) for consideration of grant funds. After thorough review of the projects, the MEA awarded over \$700,000 in grant funds for these projects. These funds will reduce the cost of the solar energy to the sponsor counties.

The Montgomery County project is located at the Transfer Station in Derwood, MD. The Transfer Station is owned by Montgomery County and serves as the MSW transfer point for the County's solid waste operations. The main Transfer Station roof is about 52,500 square feet, and the roof on the new addition to the Transfer Station building is about 17,325 square feet. The array is designed at 274 kWDC (approximately 1,250 photovoltaic panels) and will generate approximately 335,545 kWh of electricity in the first year of operation. Construction is anticipated to start in late summer of 2010.

The Howard County project is located in Ellicott City at the closed New Cut Road Landfill. The project will supply electricity to the Worthington Elementary School, which is adjacent to the Landfill property. This project is under procurement review, and will be submitted to the County Council and School Board for review and approval this summer.

MEA received funding through the United States Department of Energy State Energy Program, and such funding was made available pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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The two Authority projects are the only solid waste-related projects receiving grant awards under the SunBurst Program.
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The grants are to be applied against the upfront capital costs for the selected vendors. The reduction in the amount to be financed will, in turn, reduce the per kWh rate for the electricity generated by the project. The Authority's selected vendors will be required to install the arrays using American-made components, with labor paid at prevailing wages. The two Authority projects are the only solid waste-related projects receiving grant awards under the SunBurst Program.

For more information on the Project Sunburst Program or these Authority solar projects, please contact Andrew Kays at the Authority at 410.333.2730.

SWANA's Landfill Gas Symposium

Each year, a growing population of landfill gas professionals gathers for a week in March to learn, network, and share experiences in the landfill gas sector. This year, SWANA held their 33rd annual Landfill Gas Symposium in San Diego, CA.

The conference opened with a keynote presentation on creating an efficient and free market in pipeline quality biomethane. The presentation reminded participants that while landfill gas to electricity are great projects, there is potential for landfill gas to be utilized directly by a third party, just like natural gas. Certain direct-use projects may be a beneficial application for small, closed landfills, and owners should investigate all options for their landfill gas.

Presenters shared research on methane measurement and collection efficiency, a topic many landfill gas project developers and owners struggle to address. Landfill gas generation and collection varies based on climate and site specific conditions. Researchers are working on more accurate models to predict methane emissions,

as well as methods to measure methane oxidation within the landfill cover soils.

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SWANA's Landfill Gas Symposium continues to be an opportunity for professionals in the landfill gas industry to gather and exchange information.
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These models may one day affect the green-house gas reporting required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which leads into the presentations on the green-house gas regulations, or lack thereof. Discussions on the current federal regulations explain that there is currently no federal cap and trade legislation, however nothing concrete has developed to date.

Several project success stories were presented, including a project that

serves multiple end users, an unheard of 13.8 MW landfill gas-to-electricity facility, and a medium-high BTU landfill gas project at the University of New Hampshire. As shown by the numerous successful projects, the beneficial use of landfill gas, whether direct use or conversion to electricity, remains a growing industry.

The conference closed with a session on tax credits, carbon credits and renewable energy credits (RECs). Specific presentations discussed the challenges of contracting with a utility to sell renewable energy and RECs, as well as federal tax incentives for landfill gas-to-electricity projects. Lessons learned and experience gained from working with financial institutions and local electric utilities to develop landfill gas-to-energy projects also were shared.

SWANA's Landfill Gas Symposium continues to be an opportunity for professionals in the landfill gas industry to gather and exchange information. Please contact Amanda Moore at the Authority to obtain any specific presentations from the conference at 410.333.2730.



Baltimore County Executive Announces Results of Single-Stream Recycling Collection Program



On April 28, Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith revealed that residential recycling tonnages during the first 10 weeks since the single-stream program began on Feb. 1 reflect an increase in recycling of 33 percent when assessed against the comparable period last

year. This brought the level of recycling collection up to an average of 929 tons per week. Smith also announced that the new single-stream program has contributed to a four-percent decrease in residential trash tonnages, thus conserving the County's landfill space.

County Executive Jim Smith, along with Ed Adams, Director of Public Works, shared this information at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility in White Marsh. This is the County's only operating landfill, and it is already about half full. David Carroll, Direc-

tor of the Office of Sustainability, and Charles Reighart, Recycling and Waste Prevention Manager, also participated in this event.

"This is great news for our entire County. This program is not only collecting more recyclable material for the County, it is reducing the generation of trash," said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith.

"Thanks to single-stream recycling, Baltimore County is doing more than ever before to reduce the pollution of our environment, conserve energy, and save landfill space."



Frederick County Monocacy River Clean Up

The Monocacy's floodplain and banks are much cleaner, thanks to 42 people who helped out at the Frederick County Monocacy River

Clean Up on April 10, according to Tim Goodfellow, AICP Principal Planner II of Frederick County, who organized the event.

Waste Management provided roll-off containers and disposal of collected trash for the event from its Gaithersburg operation center.



Baltimore RESCO Waste-To-Energy Facility Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Successful Operations

Past and present employees of Whiting-Turner and BRESKO gathered to celebrate 25 years of operations at the Baltimore RESCO Waste to Energy Facility on May 21. More than 100 people, from the construction company that built

the facility in record time and under budget; and all of the Baltimore RESCO employees past and current who actually operated and maintained the facility attended. Steve Tomczewski, former Facility Manager, said that it was an opportunity to rekindle old relationships and to recognize all

the hard work and accomplishments since the Facility's opening in May 1985. BRESKO's first Plant Manager, George Hudnet, also attended. Former staff member Ted Hoefler, (currently Senior VP of North American Covanta Operations) traveled on a "red-eye" flight from Hawaii just to attend the event!



Past and present employees of Whiting-Turner and BRESKO gathered to celebrate BRESKO's 25th Anniversary.



WASTEWATCH

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WasteWatch is published quarterly by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, an independent agency of the State of Maryland governed by its Member jurisdictions – Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County.

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